

**City of Miami Beach - City Commission Workshop
1st Floor Conference Room, City Hall
1700 Convention Center Drive
May 2, 2001**

Mayor Neisen O. Kasdin
Vice-Mayor Luis R. Garcia, Jr.
Commissioner Simon Cruz
Commissioner Matti Herrera Bower
Commissioner David Dermer
Commissioner Nancy Liebman
Commissioner Jose Smith

City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Attorney Murray H. Dubbin
City Clerk Robert E. Parcher

AFTER ACTION

Call to Order - 2:14 p.m.

Mayor Neisen O. Kasdin - Absent
Vice-Mayor Luis R. Garcia, Jr. - Present
Commissioner Simon Cruz - 2:49 pm - 3:15 pm
Commissioner Matti Herrera Bower - Present
Commissioner David Dermer - 2:49 pm - 4:00 pm
Commissioner Nancy Liebman - 3:00 pm - 4:10 pm
Commissioner Jose Smith - Present

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP
Discussion Regarding the City of Miami Beach Sister Cities Program

Presentation give by Bruce Singer, Chairman, City of Miami Beach Sister Cities Coordinating Council.

Commissioner Bower asked about the programs source of funding, what are the benefits of the program, who goes on trips, and what is the Chamber of Commerce's role. Bruce Singer explained some of the benefits of the program and gave specific examples of the relationship and benefits of having Fujisawa, Japan as a Sister City. He stated that the Sister Cities program and the Chamber of Commerce are completely separate. He stated that the program sources of funding are listed in the notebook provided.

Vice-Mayor Garcia stated that he feels there is a lack of leadership by the City regarding this program.

Commissioner Smith expressed concern over the lack of information relative to the Sister Cities budget and also asked if Miami Beach residents or individuals doing business in the City are given preference for appointments to the program. Bruce Singer stated that the budget information is in the notebook and stated that appointments to the committee are typically individuals who sponsored the sister city. He stated that some of the appointments are residents and business owners in Miami Beach. In addition, the at-large appointments could be used to appoint Miami Beach residents or business owners.

Vice-Mayor Garcia stated that he would like a liaison from the Mayor's Office appointed. He volunteered his assistant to be the liaison.

Commissioner Dermer asked what economic benefits is their to having this relations with other cities. Bruce Singer stated that as each committee member presents the city they represent, they will identify some of the economic benefits.

Commissioner Cruz asked if the City Commission approves new sister cities. Bruce Singer stated yes.

Presentations where given by the following individuals:

Sister City: Almonte, Spain:	Presentation given by Roberto DaTorre.
Sister City: Chesky Krumlov, Czech Republic:	Presentation given by Raquel Vallejo.
Sister City: Cozumel, Mexico:	Presentation given by Armando Hernandez and Amparo Vargas.
Sister City: Ica, Peru:	Presentation given by Guillermo Villar.
Sister City: Pescara, Italy:	Presentation given by Nuccio Nobel and Judge John Gale.
Sister City: Ramat-Gan, Israel:	Presentation given by Jerrold Goodman.
Sister City: Rio De Janeiro, Brazil:	No speakers.
Sister City: Santa Marta, Colombia:	Presentation given by Dr. George Safirstein.

Art Santucci and Clarie Tomlin talked about the benefits of the program.

David Kelsey representing the South Beach Hotel and restaurant Association talked about the benefits of the program.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm and video was shown.

City Clerk=s notes: The Commission Workshop was advertised in the Miami Herald Neighbors Section on Thursday, April 26, 2001 - page 21. The purpose of this workshop meeting is to discuss the Sister Cities Program.

HANDOUTS:

1. Notebook titled: Sister Cities International - City Commission Workshop presented by City of Miami Beach Sister Cities Coordinating Council, May 2, 2001
2. Letter to the Mayor and City Commission from David Kelsey, President, South Beach Hotel and Restaurant Association, dated May 2, 2001

City Clerk=s Note: For detail information about the Sister Cities program see the notebook.

End of Agenda